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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

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Division Director

Inspection Report

Minerals Regulatory Program

Report Date July 19, 2006

Supervisor 1027

Mine Name: Deremo/Peterson
Operator Name: Umetco Minerals

Permit number: M0370025
Inspection Date: June 13, 2006
Time: about 2:30-3:30

Inspector(s): Paul Baker
Other Participants: Tony Bates and Frank Barnett
Mine Status: Reclaimed

Weather: Partly cloudy, 80s

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Inspection:

The primary purpose of the inspection was to evaluate vegetation cover on the waste pile.

Inspection Summary:

1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds

On March 22, 2006, the Division sent an addendum to the reclamation contract to the operator. The purpose of this addendum was to acknowledge that there are two reclamation contracts for this site. The operator did not sign the addendum.

The operator filed a Request for Agency Action which was heard by the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining during its June 28, 2006, hearing. One purpose of this request was to be released from the Board contract. The order resulting from this hearing has yet to be issued, but, as I recall, the Board found that the Division entered into a contract with the operator and thus modified the Board contract. For this reason, the Division exceeded its authority. The Board found that the operator had completed revegetation within practical limits and released the operator from the Board contract. (Rule R647-4-111.13.12 says revegetation shall be considered accomplished "when the Division determines that the revegetation work has been satisfactorily completed within practical limits.")

10. Revegetation

I found 8.3 percent perennial vegetation cover on the waste pile and ore pad. This compares with about 34 percent in undisturbed areas. Other reclaimed areas have about 25 percent cover, so the total, proportioned vegetation cover for the entire site is 18.1 percent.

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There is a fair amount of jointed goatgrass on the waste pile. Although this weed had been present last year, it was not nearly as dense as it is now.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

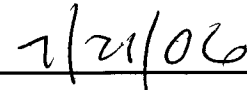
The mine plan says vegetation cover was 10-15 percent, but because this site was disturbed prior to 1975, the premining vegetation cover is not known. When the premining vegetation cover value is not known, R647-4-111.13.11 says the standard will be the ground cover of an adjacent undisturbed area that is representative of the premining ground cover. The cover standard should be 70 percent of 34 percent, 23.8 percent, not 70 percent of 10-15 percent.

Although the cover value does not meet this standard, I support the operator's and the Board's conclusions that the operator has done all within practical limits to revegetate this site. As stated above, however, the rules say the Division will make this determination and do not mention the Board in this regard.

Inspector's Signature



Date:



PBB:pb

cc: Rahe Junge, Umetco

Attachment: Photos

ATTACHMENT

Photographs

M0370025, Deremo/Peterson Mine, Umetco Minerals

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Photo 1. The top of the waste pile.



Photo 3. The east side of the waste pile. Much of the vegetation in this photo is jointed goatgrass.



Photo 2. The south side of the waste pile.



Photo 4. A portion of the north side of the waste pile which contains the largest proportion of perennial plants.



Photo 5. The ore pad. Most of the vegetation is weeds, but there is some western wheatgrass.



Photo 6. Another view of the ore pad.